

NOTES ON EDUCATION.

Boston University has just received a gift of \$10,000 for her scholarship fund.

An endeavor to abolish the German language in Louisville high schools has just failed.

At Greenock, Scotland, the School Board has just provided a series of swimming lessons for the school children—for girls as well as boys.

Professor W. H. Martin, of Davidson College, North Carolina, has accepted the professorship of Natural History in the University of North Carolina.

In the primary schools of Lancaster, Penn., writing has been introduced in the first and second divisions; geography is used as a reading book, and oral instruction is given.

There were originally sixty-one lady candidates for the recent Oxford local examinations. Thirty-nine passed and five withdrew, the remaining seventeen having failed to satisfy the examiners.

The study of American classics, or model selections from favorite American authors, both in prose and poetry, was introduced as a half-time study during the last term in the Milwaukee High School, and was pursued with enthusiasm and success.

The Prussian universities conferred last year 566 doctors' degrees, twenty-nine of these being honorary. There were 12,219 students in the eleven Prussian universities last year. Philosophy claimed the largest number. The total number of teachers was 348.

In the Syrian Protestant College at Beirut, instruction is given in French, Latin, Arabic, mathematics, the sciences, etc. The language of the institution is English. The preparatory department, the college and medical school are provided with spacious buildings. There are 121 students in the institution.

Southern parents, it is complained, are teaching their sons to be masters of almost everything except mechanics. Young men in the South earn scant livelihoods in over-crowded professions, while Northerners and Europeans step to conduct with great profit to themselves the mills, foundries and manufacturers of the South. *The New Orleans Picayune* appeals to Southern men to send their sons to schools which furnish industrial instruction.

It is officially stated that the preparatory schools in this country teach chemistry and physics to the same extent as the colleges, and in essentially the same way. There is accordingly a duplication of studies which simply wastes time. A discussion as to the feasibility of teaching such branches in primary schools has called out from a New-York teacher a relation of an instance of boys of nine years who at the end of a fortnight were making their own hydrogen and oxygen and performing simple experiments.

There are 111,387 illiterate persons in Maryland. Of this number 90,172 are colored. The State has 2,020 elementary schools, and 390 schools for colored children; these schools are conducted by 2,602 white teachers and 380 colored ones. The average salary paid is \$31.80, and the average number of months during which the teachers are employed is 8.12. In the past year 122,602 white pupils and 26,533 colored ones were in attendance. The total receipts from all sources were \$1,379,599.76, and the expenditures were \$1,284,416.99.

President J. H. Seelye says in *The Congregationalist* in regard to the new system of self-government at Amherst that it is the unanimous conviction of the Faculty that they have never known a year where so much honest work has been done in the college, and with such healthy results, as in the year now closed. The attendance upon college exercises has surprised them all. The requirements of the college are not in the least abated. Exact rules are still applied; but when these are broken, the offense, instead of being severely punished, is meted out in a lenient way. He only received upon his agreement to maintain a certain course, and failing in this he has separated himself from the college and may pursue his own way. The college follows him with no punishment, save such as his own conscience may impose, and he may go to any other college, which may choose to receive him, without hindrance from Amherst.

The annual report, just issued, of the Society for the Encouragement of Studies at Home shows that 960 students were instructed during the past eight months. Hereafter, the report says, beginners will not be allowed to take two or more courses at once, though after some experience of the methods any student may, if her correspondent approves, add another to her first study. Of the 426 students previously recorded, 205 took their second year's work; 109 their third; 72 a fourth; 23 a fifth; 16 a sixth; and 1 a seventh. Now and then an enthusiastic pupil writes that she hopes to study with the society all her life. Thirty-six of the former pupils are now among the instructors. This year 134 professional teachers were enrolled as students in the society. There were 9,341 letters written to students, and 8,432 were received from them. The average library in Boston has increased to 1,055 volumes. No student has thus far failed to return a book, sooner or later, unless she purchased it from the society. The work done in science is interesting and progressive. The teaching grows more and more specialized and detailed every year, a constant increase in the number of those who desire to follow special lines of study, and we are willing to do real work. In the third section the unexpected result is reached that the study of mathematics, originally introduced as preparatory to astronomy, proves to be separately attractive. One hundred and thirty-three students entered the science departments, and 53 per cent.

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